

Why Blacks Call Themselves Greeks

As a part of our Black History month celebration Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity would like to extend our tribute to Afro-American fraternities and sororities. These specific organizations began in a time when Afro-Americans was excluded from college and when going to college at that time was comparable to obtaining a Ph.D today.

Those black "greeks," who had enumerable obstacles still managed to produce such greatness as James Weldon Johnson, W.E.B. Dubois, Dr. George Washington Carver just to mention "a few". Our founders began what today consists of over 650,000 fraternity and sorority men and women who are greatly admired and cherished in our hearts. IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDERS, WE LOVE YOU.

The following is an article obtained by the SIGMAS of Stony Brook from the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha. Phi Beta Sigma is publishing it so once and for all misconceptions can no longer plague our fellow "BLACK GREEKS".

YOURS TRULY
PRINCE, PHI BETA SIGMA

Proud to Be a
Black Greek

The following commentary by Tony Brown was submitted by both Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma separately.

by Tony Brown

I recently participated in celebrations to Martin Luther King from coast to coast. The first national holiday honoring this great leader was marked by events sponsored by the widest possible variety of underwriters.

In St. Louis, Anheuser-Busch and Alpha Phi Alpha, the oldest Black fraternity, held an unusually moving tribute. King of course, was an Alpha Man. That made for a natural synergism, but it also made me reflect on my undergraduate days as a gung-ho Man of Alpha.

I remember the intense pride in belonging, the honor of being identified with older, outstanding Black men, living and dead. It was a living legacy and it provided for me as a youth a firm sense of character based on ethics and a belief in God. Needless to say, this Alpha philosophy became my road map for a professional career.

I also remember one recurring criticism: "Why are Black people like you calling yourselves Greeks?" It was years before I had the factual answer to that challenge.

Greece, I learned from a more thorough study of history, was a culturally diverse pluralistic society of various ethnic and racial groups—much like the United States of today. However, the citizens were mostly dark-skinned black and brown people.

Many Greeks were called Carians, Achaeans, Cadmeans, Leleges and Garamantes. All of these tribes were members of the Pelasgian nation. They were also all Black.

The Pelasgians came to what is now known as Greece from the Saharan region of Africa, Egypt and old Palestine. The Garamantes were the



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first to colonize ancient Greece. They arrived around the 4th millenium B. C. Originally, they were from the Western Sahara.

The Aryan Greek period, when the Kurgan tribesman became rulers of the Aegean, of White rule did not begin until 600 B. C. As you can see, Black people ruled Greece until that time.

Greek mythology is replete with Black history, as we have come to identify certain events. The Amazons, for example, were symbols of Black matriarchal societies on the Black (note the term) Sea.

George G. M. James, in "Stolen Legacy", gives proof that Greek philosophy came from ancient Egyptian wisdom. As a matter of fact, Socrates was persecuted by the Aryans (Whites) for his teachings. Which leads me to suspect that he was one of us, a Pelasgian.

Homer, author of "Illiad" and "Odyssey," was a Carian. Euclid, another great Greek, was also Black. Of course, "His-Story" books present all great Greeks as White.

Ulysses, Achilles and Hercules were also Pelasgian, some of whom were also know as Danaans and Achaeans. And remember that in Homer's "Illiad," the only Aryan heroes were the Hellenes. All of the other heroes were Danaans and Achaens.

Therefore, it was most fitting that Martin Luther King, a Greek, was celebrated by his Greek brothers of Pelasgian descent in Alpha Phi Alpha. We have Henry H. Brown, Vice-President at Anheuser-Busch and an Alpha, to thank for bringing the two worlds together.

And because of history and Black History Month, I am, therefore, proud to be a Pelasgian-African-American-Greek member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Did You Know?

by Mia Williams

Did you know that many everyday items we use were invented by Blacks? It has been said that Blacks in the past have not made any contributions to society. Here are a few inventions and contributions that have not only benefitted America but the whole world. We salute these people in honor of Black History month.

July 9, 1893 - Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the world's first open heart surgery without anesthesia. He also founded Chicago's Provident Hospital.

July 18, 1905 - Granville Woods received a patent for railway brakes.

May 22, 1899 - Percy L. Julian, isolated soya protein as basis of Aero-Foam, the chemical used in fire extinguishers.

June 15, 1877 - Henry O. Flipper became the first Black to graduate from West Point Military Academy.

May 7, 1878 - J. R. Winters received a patent for the first fire escape ladder.

October 13, 1831 - Jo Anderson, a

slave, invented the grain harvester.

August 23, 1892 - O. E. Brown received a patent for the horseshoe.

March 16, 1827 - First Black newspaper in the U.S. was the Freedman's Journal published in New York City.

October 10, 1899 - J. W. Butts received a patent for the luggage carrier.

November 23, 1897 - J. L. Love received a patent for the pencil sharpener.

October 12, 1925 - Xavier Univer-

sity, the only Black Catholic college was founded.

August 2, 1847 - William A. Leidesdorff launched the first steamboat in San Francisco Bay, CA.

